

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6272

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 02307

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, SF, BE

SUBJECT: ZAIRE AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. DAVIGNON, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY, CALLED US THIS MORNING TO EXPRESS THE CONCERN OF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT INSUFFICIENT CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND BELGIANS ON ZAIRE AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. DAVIGNON FOUND IT UNSETTLING THAT YOU, IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR TRIP TO ZAIRE, HAD TALKED TO THE FRENCH AND THE GERMANS AND NOT TO BELGIANS. DAVIGNON SAID THAT BELGIAN CONCERNS WERE NOT BASED ON SENSITIVITY BUT ON SUBSTANCE. HE DOES NOT EXPECT THE FRENCH TO DO MUCH, IF ANYTHING, TO HELP ZAIRE. HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE U.S. WAS BACKING THE FRENCH INTO ZAIRE. THE BELGIANS AND THE GERMANS ARE THE EUROPEANS PRIMARILY CONCERNED, DAVIGNON SAID, AND IF ANYONE CAN DELIVER EUROPE IT WILL BE THEY.

3. DAVIGNON SAID THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS MAKING A BIG EFFORT TO PULL THE EC TOGETHER TO DO SOMETHING FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE FEELS THAT CLOSE AND REGULAR CONSULTATION IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE. DAVIGNON SAID THAT HE HAD JUST TALKED TO PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS WHO AGREED ENTIRELY.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS

POSSIBLE WHAT WE MAY TELL DAVIGNON ABOUT CONSULTATION ON
THESE MATTERS. AS YOU KNOW, DAVIGNON IS CONSTRUCTIVE
AND INFLUENTIAL. IT IS TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO KEEP HIM
CURRENTLY INFORMED AND TO CONSULT WITH HIM FULLY. FIRESTONE

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